

C I R C U L A R .

Pl. L. 83
MSS.

CITIZENS OF MASSACHUSETTS—

The deed is done. Below, you will find a resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the United States, on the 21st of December, inst. That tried and fearless defender of the right of petition, Hon. J. Q. Adams, attempted to remonstrate against its adoption, but was gagged by the *previous question*! As the only thing he could do, when the yeas and nays were called, he rose in his place, and amid clamorous cries of 'order,' designed to silence him, or drown his voice, he exclaimed, '*I consider this resolution a violation of the Constitution of the United States—of the right of my constituents and the people of the United States to petition—and of my right of freedom of speech as a member of this House.*' It was to no purpose. Slaveholding arrogance and dictation demanded it, and straitway the gag is applied, the right of petition virtually denied, the Constitution trampled under foot, and the sovereignty of the people contemned. Will you stand by the right of petition? Then circulate and sign the annexed memorials.

At the last session of Congress, the House of Representatives declared by solemn vote, that *slaves* have not the right of petition. By the resolution of December 21st, this body virtually declares that YOU have not this right. *Are you slaves?*

Again—this resolution is almost word for word the infamous resolution of January last. That resolution came immediately before the Legislature of this Commonwealth, then in session, for its consideration and action. That body, by a vote of 378 to 16, passed the following resolutions:—

* Resolved, That the resolution above named is an assumption of power and authority at variance with the spirit and intent of the Constitution of the United States, and injurious to the cause of freedom and free institutions; that it does violence to the inherent, absolute, and inalienable rights of man; and that it tends essentially to impair those fundamental principles of natural justice and natural law, which are antecedent to any written constitutions of government, independent of them all, and essential to the security of freedom in a State.

Resolved, That our Senators and Representatives in Congress, in maintaining and advocating the full right of petition, have entitled themselves to the cordial approbation of the people of this Commonwealth.

Nobly spoken! A voice, worthy the free representatives of a free people! There was

but one defect in it—it was not 'spoken upon the house-tops.' *No resolution was passed directing the Executive to forward the above to Congress.* Four things, then, need now to be done:

1. That the people respond, promptly, universally, boldly, to the voice of their representatives—therefore sign the memorials.

2. That the response be uttered on the house-tops—in the ear of Congress—therefore sign memorial No. 1.

3. That the response break on the ear of that body, at one time, as a voice of thunder, in one startling appeal. Therefore, circulate and sign the memorials at once, and on the 25th of January, mail them for Washington, directed to J. Q. Adams, or the member from your district. If the circulation be completed sooner, no matter: *on that day, not before*, put them in the mail. If it be not then completed, no matter, send what you have, and the remainder afterwards.

N. B. Let *adults* only sign the memorials. Let ladies and gentlemen sign *separate* memorials. Let the signatures of the men in each place be all united in one memorial; and the signatures of the ladies in another. Fold each memorial, and on the back of it, write, in large and legible characters, the name of the first petitioner, the number of petitioners, and the place—thus—'Petition of A. B. and others of remonstrating against the resolution of December 21st, 1837.'

4. The fourth thing to be done is to make the state legislature, at its present session, speak the same language, in regard to the resolution of December 21st, that it did, at its last, in regard to the resolution of January 18th—and speak it, too, *in the ear of Congress.* Therefore circulate and sign memorial No. 2, at once, and send it in to your representatives in the State Legislature, without delay.

Men and women of Massachusetts, the work is before you—will you do it? Or shall your apathy and silence doom you slaves? The answer is with you.

A. A. PHELPS,
By order of the Board of Managers
of the Mass. A. S. Society.

you are not necessary

Circulars

Writing of No recent
E. B.

treatment, they could not be expected to acquiesce in. They were unwilling, therefore, to connect themselves with the boarding schools, and the missionaries hesitated in encouraging them to do so.

That they should be in school, and under regular and systematic training, was viewed, of course, to be of immense importance, both in regard to their own welfare, and the welfare of the nation. The old chiefs were rapidly disappearing, and if their children were the persons to fill their places, it was vastly important that they should be well prepared. Times had changed. It could no longer be expected that ignorant chiefs would be able to rule the nation. To acquire a good education, or become extinct, as chiefs, were the only alternatives. p. 327.

The school from the commencement has received much of its support from the government, and the king and chiefs at their last council, assumed also the support of the instructors. p. 331.

In 1841, definite ^{School} laws were enacted by the king and chiefs in council. These laws provided for the erection of school-houses, the attendance of scholars and the support of teachers. Some difficulty was experienced in carrying the laws into execution, on account of opposition to the Romanists. In 1842, the laws were so revised, as to avoid, if possible, any complaints from that sect, extending privileges to parents who should send their children to school, instead of directly requiring them to send, and providing for the support of teachers, rather from public sources, than by direct tax upon the parents. pp. 334, 335.